**City of Marine City**

**City Commission**

**December 2, 2021**

A regular meeting of the Marine City Commission was held on Thursday, December 2, 2021 at 260 South Parker Street, Marine City, and was called to order by Mayor Vercammen at 7:00 pm.

Present: Mayor Cheryl Vercammen; Commissioners Elizabeth Hendrick, Wendy Kellehan (participated remotely), William Klaassen, John Kreidler, Brian Ross; City Manager Holly Tatman; City Clerk Kristen Baxter

Absent: Commissioner Jacob Bryson

Also Present: City Attorney Robert Davis

Motion by Commissioner Ross, seconded by Commissioner Klaassen, to excuse Commissioner Bryson from the meeting. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**AUDIO/VIDEO AVAILABLE**

For complete audio/video of meeting, visit the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eEhhTqfFy7I>

**APPROVE AGENDA**

Motion by Mayor Vercammen, seconded by Commissioner Ross, to approve the Agenda with the following addition:

Agenda Item #14-A: Closed Session to Consider Material Exempt from Discussion or Disclosure by State or Federal Statute MCL 15.268 (h).

**Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Hendrick, Kellehan, Klaassen, Kreidler, Ross, Vercammen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Phil Oleksiak made comment regarding the Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act process and possible training for the Board.

Heather Warner spoke in opposition of City Commission meetings being held once a month and suggested public comment be allowed at the beginning and end of meetings.

Rudy Menchaca spoke in opposition to City Commission meetings being held once a month.

Rosalie Skwiers spoke in opposition to City Commission meetings being held once a month.

**APPROVE MINUTES**

Motion by Commissioner RosseH, seconded by Mayor Vercammen, to approve the City Commission minutes of November 18, 2021, as amended. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Kellehan, Kreidler, Ross, Vercammen. Nays: Hendrick, Klaassen. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner KreidlereH, seconded by Mayor Vercammen, to approve the City Commission Closed Session minutes of November 18, 2021. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Kellehan, Kreidler, Ross, Vercammen. Nays: Hendrick, Klaassen. Motion Carried.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Presented:

* Business License – Styles by Scott
* Business License – Autism Systems LLC
* Special Event – Santa Claus is Coming to Town

Motion by Commissioner Kreidler, seconded by Commissioner Ross, to approve the Consent Agenda. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Hendrick, Kellehan, Klaassen, Kreidler, Ross, Vercammen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

**FINANCIAL BUSINESS**

Expenditures

Motion by Commissioner Kellehan, seconded by Commissioner Klaassen, to approve total expenditures including payroll, in the amount of $195,455.62. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Hendrick, Kellehan, Klaassen, Kreidler, Ross, Vercammen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Preliminary Financial Statements

Motion by Commissioner Ross, seconded by Commissioner Kreidler, to receive and file the Preliminary Financial Statements. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Hendrick, Kellehan, Klaassen, Kreidler, Ross, Vercammen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Board Appointments

Motion by Mayor Vercammen, seconded by Commissioner Kreidler, to appoint James Turner (as full Board member) and John Paulun (as alternate) to the Zoning Board of Appeals for terms ending 12/31/2024. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Kellehan, Klaassen, Kreidler, Ross, Vercammen. Nays: Hendrick. Motion Carried.

Motion by Mayor Vercammen, seconded by Commissioner Kreidler, to appoint Gabriel Costanzo and Kim Turner to the TIFA Board for terms ending 06/30/2025. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Hendrick, Kellehan, Klaassen, Kreidler, Ross, Vercammen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Kreidler, seconded by Commissioner Hendrick, to appoint Kim Turner, Brian Ross, and Andrew Pakledinaz to the Historical Commission for terms ending 12/31/2024. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Hendrick, Kellehan, Klaassen, Kreidler, Ross, Vercammen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion by Mayor Vercammen, seconded by Commissioner Kreidler, to appoint John Paulin to the Board of Review for a term ending 12/31/2024. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Hendrick, Kellehan, Klaassen, Kreidler, Ross, Vercammen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion by Mayor Vercammen, seconded by Commissioner Ross, to appoint Graham Allan, John Paulun, and James Turner to the Dangerous Building Board of Appeals for terms ending 12/31/2024. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Kellehan, Klaassen, Kreidler, Ross, Vercammen. Nays: Hendrick. Motion Carried.

New Meeting Schedule

At the November 18, 2021 meeting, City Manager Tatman provided a proposed calendar for 2022 with several changes:

1) Move Planning Commission to 6 pm in lieu of 7 pm.

2) Reducing City Commission meetings to one per month.

3) Changing City Commission meetings to a Monday or Tuesday.

At the November 18, 2021 meeting, there were many scheduling conflicts expressed with holding a Tuesday meeting. Other Board members had conflicts with Mondays and Wednesdays. It was ultimately decided that City Commission meetings would remain on Thursdays and would take place on the third Thursday of each month.

Motion by Mayor Vercammen, seconded by Commissioner Kellehan, to change the City Commission meeting schedule for 2022 to one meeting per month, on the third Thursday of each month, at 7:00 pm unless a special meeting was required. In addition, the Planning Commission meeting time changed from 7pm to 6pm. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Hendrick, Kellehan, Klaassen, Kreidler, Ross, Vercammen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

RFP’s for 300 Broadway & 303 South Water

City Manager Tatman reported that bids were received from commercial real estate firms on the above City-owned properties. She suggested the formation of a work group to review the proposals to get an understanding of the value of the properties and what the next steps might be for the City. City Manager Tatman explained that the work groups would be held in a public forum and would offer a neutral environment to begin discussions on the properties. Mayor Vercammen suggested the work group consist of the following members from various City Boards:

* Ben Heath – Planning Commission
* Joe Moran – Community & Economic Development Board
* Brian Ross – City Commission
* Jacob Bryson – City Commission
* John Kreidler – City Commission

City Attorney Davis made the following recommendations for the work group:

* Follow the Open Meetings Act with proper notice and minute taking.
* Appoint a Chairperson.
* Relax the limits on the public comment time.
* Host a Town Hall meeting upon completion of work group.

Motion by Mayor Vercammen, seconded by Commissioner Kreidler, to set up a non-permanent work group consisting of Ben Heath, Joe Moran, Brian Ross, Jacob Bryson, and John Kreidler. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Hendrick, Kellehan, Klaassen, Kreidler, Ross, Vercammen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

2021 Water Main & Road Improvement Project: Contractor’s Application for Payment No. 2 and Change Order No. 1

Motion by Commissioner Kreidler, seconded by Commissioner Ross, to approve the change order in the amount of $27,286.73 to Project Control Engineering. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Hendrick, Kellehan, Klaassen, Kreidler, Ross, Vercammen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Refrigerated Sampler – Waste Water Treatment Plant (price increase)

Motion by Commissioner Ross, seconded by Commissioner Klaassen, to approve the additional cost of $771 to purchase the Refrigerated Sampler, changing the total cost from $6,837 to $7,608. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Hendrick, Kellehan, Klaassen, Kreidler, Ross, Vercammen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Bridge to Bay

Marine City Bridge to Bay Advisory Committee member, Mark Miano, announced the availability of grant money for the trail and recommended that the City use the funds for engineering services to assist with filling gaps on Marine City trails, such as the creation of a downtown loop.

City Manager Tatman responded and said that a more long-term commitment needed to be made first by the Board. She explained that if the City accepted the $10,000 grant for engineering from the Community Foundation, the City was committing themselves to spending additional funding on the trail project. She asked Board members to read through the facts and figures provided to them on the trails; agenda item to be brought back at a future meeting.

**ITEMS REMOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA**

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

In addition to her Manager’s Report, City Manager Tatman announced that the City was awarded DNR grant money for the marina. She also stated that the office was plugging away on year-end requirements, said that UHY was on site and had begun duties in the Treasurer’s Department, and said the City Clerk position was posted. City Manager Tatman reported that the office was working on positivity during the upcoming holiday season to help change the momentum and perception of the City and made a plea for the narrative to be more positive and optimistic.

**COMMISSIONER PRIVILEGE/LIAISON REPORTS**

Commissioner Ross tipped his hat to the Mariner’s football team and said they poured their hearts and souls into the game last week. He said he was proud to be a Mariner, despite the outcome of the game. He thanked Andrea Shink and everyone who participated in the Santa parade. He reported that Ryan Wiley was close to completing his Eagle Scout project at the beach and said he was doing a great job. Finally, Commissioner Ross said his thoughts went out to Oxford and all the victims said hopefully people could come together to make profound changes so this doesn’t happen again.

Commissioner Kreidler thanked everyone for all their hard work over the past year and for covering for him while he was traveling. He said he supported all the infrastructure ideas for the City’s trails and recreational activities and said this town was a gem. Commissioner Kreidler suggested that, as a community, we needed to try to find ways to prevent the kind of tragedy that occurred in Oxford and that we all needed to be better at being good citizens and good neighbors and have more respect for one another.

Commissioner Klaassen also thanked Andrea Shink for taking over the Santa parade. He reported that Santa Claus was extremely happy with the float and said he would like to come back next year. He thanked everyone involved in the parade and said he had never seen the volume of kids visit Santa as he did this year.

Commissioner Kellehan said she had every intention of being at the meeting this evening in person, but said she was visiting her sister in California who had Covid. She thanked the Mariner football team for the great season. In addition to the football game, she said she watched the Santa parade from afar. Commissioner Kellehan explained that she was a teacher and an administrator for Oakland County for many years. She said the Oxford tragedy hit really hard and that her heart went out to the families, administrators and teachers involved.

Commissioner Hendrick said the whole town was proud of the football team and said they couldn’t have done a better job. She also thanked Andrea Shink for the great job with the parade, and announced that Merrytime Days, Lions Club Craft Sale, and the Old Newsboys Paper Sale would be held over the weekend. She also shared that alley vacation requests needed approval from utilities as well as the consent of all homeowners whose property adjoined the alley.

Mayor Vercammen announced the 2nd Annual Santa Claus is Coming to Town to be held on December 7th at 6pm. She said the map was still being finalized and would be posted online. She also announced Merrytime Christmas on December 4th and asked everyone to come out and enjoy the event.

**CLOSED SESSION**

Motion by Commissioner Ross, seconded by Commissioner Kreidler, to go into Closed Session at 8:25 pm to Consider Material Exempt from Discussion or Disclosure by State or Federal Statute – MCL 15.268 (h). **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Hendrick, Kellehan, Klaassen, Kreidler, Ross, Vercammen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Kellehan, seconded by Commissioner Ross, to go back into Open Session at 9:21 pm. **Roll Call Vote.** Ayes: Hendrick, Kellehan, Klaassen, Kreidler, Ross, Vercammen. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Commissioner Kreidler, seconded by Commissioner Hendrick, to adjourn at 9:22 pm. All Ayes**.** Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Baxter

City Clerk